

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Appln. Based on PCT/FR99/00692

- Claim 2: lines 1-2, change "characterised in that" to --wherein--.
- Claim 3: lines 1-2, change "characterised in that" to --wherein--.
- Claim 4: lines 1-2, delete "any one of the preceding claims" in favor of --claim 1--;
line 2, change "characterised in that" to --wherein--.
- Claim 5: lines 1-2, change "characterised in that" to --wherein--.
- Claim 6: lines 1-2, change "any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that"
to --claim 1, wherein--.
- Claim 7: lines 1-2, delete "any one of the preceding claims" in favor of --claim 1--;
line 2, change "characterised in that" to --wherein--.
- Claim 8: lines 1-2, delete "any one of claims 1 to 6" in favor of --claim 1--;
line 2, change "characterised in that" to --wherein--.

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9(amended). A method using a plasma excited by an electromagnetic wave to form a container, such as a bottle or flask, made heterogeneously from a material with a barrier effect and a polymer material forming a substrate conforming to the shape of said container to be produced, [characterised in that] wherein said polymer material forming the substrate is coated with a material with a barrier effect comprising an amorphous carbon material with a polymer tendency, [consisting of] comprising the following steps:

- A
- placing a blank of the container (18) made from a polymer material forming the above-mentioned substrate [is placed] in an enclosure (2), in which a high vacuum is created,
 - injecting at least one carbon precursor [is injected] into the reaction chamber (2, 18) in the gaseous state at a very low pressure, the precursor being selected from the alkane, alkene, alkyne and aromatic compounds or a combination of some of them, and
 - [a microwave in the UHF range is] simultaneously electromagnetically [excited] exciting a microwave in the UHF range in the reaction chamber, at a relatively low power sufficient to generate a plasma under temperature conditions which will maintain the polymer at

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A1 a temperature below the glass transition temperature on the one hand and which will cause an amorphous carbon material with a polymer tendency to be deposited on the other.

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- Claim 10: lines 1-2, change "characterised in that" to --wherein--.
- Claim 11: lines 1-2, change "characterised in that" to --wherein--.
- Claim 12: lines 1-2, change "characterised in that" to --wherein--.
- Claim 13: lines 1-2, delete "anyone of claims 9 to 12, characterised in that" in favor of --claim 9, wherein--.
- Claim 14: lines 1-2, delete "any one of claims 9 to 13, characterised in that" in favor of --claim 9, wherein--.
- Claim 15: lines 1-2, delete "anyone of claims 9 to 13, characterised in that" in favor of --claim 9, wherein--.
- Claim 16: lines 10, delete "characterised in that" in favor of --wherein--.
- Claim 17: line 1, change "characterised in that" to --wherein--.
- Claim 18: line 2, change "characterised in that" to --wherein--;
line 14, delete "in that" in favor of --wherein--.
- Claim 19: line 2, delete "characterised in that" in favor of --wherein--;
line 7, delete "in that it" in favor of --wherein said apparatus--.

A2 20(amended). An apparatus as claimed in claim [19 characterised in that] 18, wherein the enclosure is provided with a removable cover providing a sealed closure designed to support the injector of the means for injecting the gaseous precursor and the suction orifice of the pumping means, wherein said apparatus also has means designed to support a container blank by the neck thereof, applying the lip of said container blank in a tight seal against the internal face of said cover, surrounding said suction orifices and the injector, and wherein the support means (17) can be axially displaced (19) in order to apply the container blank against the internal face of the cover (4) capping said suction orifices and injector prior to depositing the coating or to remove the finished container therefrom after the coating has been deposited.